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REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's drawing attention to the informalities of Claims 14 and 17 and these have been corrected as suggested and as well Claim 16.

The Examiner's marked up copy of Figure 9 of the Herbst Patent has been carefully considered. It is respectfully submitted that the analysis of this Figure 9 set out in the Official Action is clearly in error because each of the frame members disclosed is not one side of a window sash and Herbst's frames do not, could not and were not intended to retain a glazing unit therebetween. Herbst's glazing unit 15 is held in position against the two frames after they have been assembled by the holding strip assembly 25 which is made up of two side pieces 26 and a top piece 28 and a bottom piece 29.

It is also respectfully pointed out that the unmarked frames shown in Figure 9 are not frames 20 and 21 but are quite different frames. Herbst's frames 20 and 21 are shown in Figures 4 and 6 respectively. They are also identified in Figure 8A as two separate frames and in Figure 8B as a single or one piece frame.

While the frame members in Figure 9 are very different from frames 20 and 21 in Figures 8A and 8B, the sash retaining arrangement is the same. In this respect, Figures 8A and 8B show the glazing unit or sash unit 15 held against the frames 20 and 21 by the strip assembly 25. From this sash retaining aspect, the arrangement in Figure 9 is identical with Figures 8A and 8B in that the glazing unit is also held against the two frames by the strip assembly 25.

This fact may be more readily seen from the attached enlarged view of Herbst Figure 9 labelled Exhibit "A". As can be clearly seen from this enlarged view Exhibit "A", on assembly, the surface of the right hand frame which has been marked as

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100 vertically registers with the surface of the left hand frame which has been marked as 101. These combined aligned surfaces of the two frames combine to provide the support for one side only of the glazing unit 15 while the other side of the glazing unit 15 is held against the aligned surfaces 100 and 101 by the locking member 28 of strip assembly 25 whose prong 50 is press-fitted into the socket 51 of the right hand frame.

While the frames of Figure 9 when brought together do create closed off chambers on all sides of the frames, these chambers are not continuous but are blocked off at regular intervals by the press-fit lock assemblies 55. These blocked chambers are not only not intended to retain any article therein and could not retain anything such as a glazing unit but the insertion of anything therein would serve no purpose and would detrimentally affect the practical utility of the frame assembly by adding undesired weight and cost.

More importantly, these closed off chambers in Figure 9, just as in the case of Figures 8A and 8B, are sealed off from the area circumscribed by the frame when the two frames are brought together. Thus, as noted above, the Herbst frame arrangements, including those of Figure 9, cannot retain anything which extends into the area circumscribed by the frame. To retain anything such as a glazing unit within the circumscribed area, Herbst always has to use additional members, eg. the four members of the holding strip assembly 25.

In contrast, applicant's integrally molded area circumscribing frame members fit against one another to form an area circumscribing support frame which has a circumferentially continuous retaining recess or channel which is open and which opens into the circumscribed area formed between the frame members. Thus applicant's frame members can retain articles or members such as paintings or carpets which expand across and are displayed within the area or glazing units or window sashes or sliding windows which closes off all or at least part of the circumscribed area

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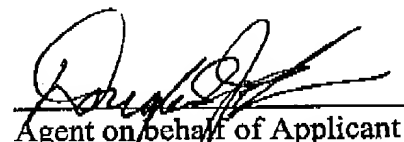
Applicant's invention is of course particularly useful in the window art where all that is necessary to retain a glazing unit etc. is the provision of only two members, namely, two one piece molded area circumscribing frames molded to fit together to provide a retaining recess or channel therearound which opens into the circumscribed area.

To ensure this point is clear, Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the first and second frame members when fitted together form an area circumscribing support frame having a retaining recess or channel which opens into the circumscribed area. This language very clearly distinguishes the present invention from Herbst as well as all of the other art and, it is respectfully submitted, is directed to novel and highly meritable patentable matter.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claim 1 is now clearly allowable and that all the other claims which are dependent therefrom are now also clearly allowable.

Reconsideration of the application and its allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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Enclosure: Exhibit "A"